I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery ~~including,~~ comprising:

a) an amino acid source,

b) a carbohydrate source,

c) a lipid source, and

d) a fatty acid delivery agent, being a fatty acid covalently bonded to a carrier molecule by a bond hydrolysable in the colon to thereby release the fatty acid, the covalent bonding providing a protective effect to both the carrier and fatty acid from degradation in the stomach or small intestine, said carrier being any one of a starch, a non-starch polysaccharide, or oligosaccharide the fatty acid delivery agent being present in the formulation range of 0.25% w/v through to 5% w/v, and wherein the formulation can be delivered through an enteral feeding tube, ~~so as to release sufficient fatty acid in the colon to give rise to a health benefit to a recipient.~~

2. Cancelled

3. Cancelled

4. (Currently Amended) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the formulation is capable of being stored for at least 24 hours and not forming a gel viscous solution or precipitate that is not easily resuspended.

5. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the enteral formulation is also an elemental formulation and includes a mineral source and a vitamin source.

6. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the fatty acid is a short chain fatty acid (SCFA).

7. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the SCFA is selected from the group consisting of, acetate, propionate, ~~butryate~~ butyrate, caproate, isovalerate, valerate and branched or modified derivatives thereof.

8. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the SCFA is acetate.

9. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the SCFA is propionate.

10. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the SCFA is butyrate.

11. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the fatty acid is a SCFA or an omega 3 fatty acid, an omega 6 fatty acid or stearadonic acid.

12. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 9 wherein the omega 3 fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of linolenic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosahexaenoic acid, and the omega 6 fatty acid is linoleic acid.

13. Cancelled

14. Cancelled

15. (Currently Amended) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the carrier is a ~~soluble~~ non-starch polysaccharide or oligosaccharide.

16. (Currently Amended) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 15 wherein the non-starch polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of inulin, ~~pectin~~, chitin, β glucans, mucilages, agar, carageenans ~~alginates~~ and gums including guar, arabic, xanthan, tragacanth, locust bean and psyllium.

17-22. Cancelled

23 (Currently Amended) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim ~~13~~ 6 wherein the carbohydrate is a starch.

24. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 23 wherein the starch is a starch digestible in the small intestine.

25. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 23 wherein the starch is a starch resistant to digestion in the small intestine.

26. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 25 wherein the starch is a high amylose starch.

27. Cancelled

28. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 23 wherein the starch is a modified starch.

29. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 23 wherein the starch is modified through the use of any one or more of the following, heat and/or moisture, physically, enzymatically, chemical hydrolysis, esterification, oxidation, cross bonding with difunctional reagents, and carboxymethylation.

30. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 1 wherein the bond is selected from the group consisting of a ester bond, an ether bond or an amide bond.

31. Cancelled

32. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 23 wherein the degree of substitution ranges from 0.05 acyl group per saccharide unit to 2 acyl groups per saccharide unit.

33. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 23 wherein the degree of substitution ranges from 0.1 acyl groups per saccharide unit to 0.5 acyl group per saccharide unit.

34. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the carrier is a starch and the formulation having by weight 0.25% to about 5% of the fatty acid delivery agent.

35. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the carrier is a starch and the formulation having by weight 0.5% to about 4% of the fatty acid delivery agent.

36. (Original) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim 6 wherein the carrier is a starch and the formulation having by weight about 2% of the fatty acid delivery agent.

37. Cancelled

38. Cancelled

39. (Currently Amended) A method of elevating the level of a fatty acid in the colon of a human or animal, including the step of delivering a fatty delivery agent in a physiologically acceptable medium through a feeding tube to elevate the level of the fatty acid, the fatty acid delivery agent being a fatty acid covalently bonded to a carrier molecule by a bond hydrolysable in the colon to thereby release the fatty acid, the covalent bonding providing a protective effect to both the carrier and fatty acid from degradation in the stomach or small intestine, said carrier being a starch, a non-starch polysaccharide or an oligosaccharide, the fatty acid delivery agent being present in the formulation range of 0.25% w/v through the 5% w/v.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the physiological acceptable medium is an enteral feed formulation, including,

a) an amino acid sequence,

b) a carbohydrate source, and

c) a lipid source.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid is a SCFA.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the carrier is a starch.

43. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the level of the fatty acid within the large bowel is elevated within a time period of 6 hrs.

44. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the level of the SCFA within the large bowel is elevated within a time period of 4 hrs.

45. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the level of the SCFA within the large bowel is elevated within a time period of 2 hrs.

46. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid delivery agent constitutes less than about 30% by weight of the formulation.

47. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid delivery agent constitutes less than about 20% by weight of the formulation.

48. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid delivery agent constitutes less than about 10% by weight of the formulation.

49. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid delivery agent constitutes less than about 5% by weight of the formulation.

50. Cancelled

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~50~~ 42 wherein the enteral formulation is delivered through a nasogastric tube.

52. (Original) The method of claim 52 wherein the starch is a resistant starch.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52 wherein the resistant starch is a high amylose starch.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53 wherein the SCFA is selected from the group consisting of acetate, propionate and butyrate.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the quantity of fatty acid delivery agent delivered is between 5 and 80gm/day.

56. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the quantity of fatty acid delivery agent delivered is between about 10 and 60 gm/day.

57. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the quantity of fatty acid delivery agent delivered is between about 40 gm/day.

58. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein no more than 2 litres of the enteral formulation is delivered within a 24 hour time period.

59. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein no more than 1 litre of the enteral formulation is delivered within a 24 hour time period.

60. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the fatty acid delivery agent is present in the formulation between 0.25% and about 5% by weight of the formulation.

61. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the fatty acid delivery agent is present in the formulation at about 2% by weight of the formulation.

62. (Currently Amended) An enteral formulation for nasogastric delivery as in claim~~13~~ 1 wherein

the carrier molecule is selected from the group consisting of a non-starch polysaccharide and/or oligosaccharide:

the non-starch polysaccharide being selected from the group consisting of inulin, ~~pectin~~ chitin, β-glucans, mucilages, agar, carageenans, ~~alginates~~ gums, cellulose, and hemicellulose, or

the gum being selected from the group including guar, arabic, xanthan, tragacanth, locust bean and psyllium, or

the cellulose being selected from the group of celluloses derived from oat hullo, soybeans and cereal bran, microcrystalline celluloses, methyl celluloses, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and carboxymethylcellulose, or

the oligosaccharide being selected from the group consisting of fructooligosacchardies, galactooligosaccharides, short chain amylodextrins and maltodextrins and modifications and derivatives thereof.

63. (New) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the viscosity of the formulation at 25°C is no greater than 40cP.

64. (New) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide is fermentable in the colon.

65. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the physiological acceptable medium is water.

66. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the level of fatty acid within the large bowel is elevated within a time period of about 1 hour.

67. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the human or animal suffers from a gastrointestinal condition and said elevation in level is rapid in relation to an increase in fatty acid levels due to fermentation of ingested carbohydrate so that at least one of the effects of said condition are ameliorated rapidly after administration.

68. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein the condition is an acute condition in which increased levels of fatty acid are beneficial and levels of the fatty acid need to be increased within three hours of delivery of the fatty acid delivery agent to a part of the bowel.

69. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein the concentration of fatty acid delivery agent is greater than 1 % w/v.

70. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid is acetate.

71. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid is propionate.

72. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the fatty acid is butyrate.

73. (New) The method of claim 70 wherein the elevation in levels of acetate in the bowel occurs between 0.5 and 1 hour after delivery of the fatty acid delivery agent to the bowel.

74. (New) The method of claim 72 wherein the elevation in levels of acetate in the bowel occurs between 0.5 and 1 hour after delivery of the fatty acid delivery agent to the bowel.

75. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein the condition is selected from the list including diarrhea, post operable surgery, gastrointestinal bacterial infections, antibiotic treatment chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments.

76. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein the increase in levels of propionate in the bowel occurs between 0.5 and 1 hour after delivery of the fatty acid delivery agent to the bowel.

77. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the starch is a modified starch.

78. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the starch is modified through the use of any one or more of the following, heat and/or moisture, physically, enzymatically,

chemical hydrolysis, esterification, oxidation, cross bonding with difunctional reagents, and carboxymethylation.